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Fifty-first session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.2)]

51/100. Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation is essential for the effective promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming its commitment to promote international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular in Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[1] to enhance genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

Encouraging the Working Group on Human Rights of the Third Committee to continue its efforts to implement section II, paragraph 17, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, giving due consideration to ways and means to promote international cooperation in the field of human rights with a view to accomplishing its mandate before the conclusion of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly,

1. Supports the consultations initiated during the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights on the need to promote international cooperation through genuine and constructive dialogue on the basis of mutual respect and equality of States;

[1] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

2. Invites the Commission on Human Rights to pursue the matter with a view to reaching a successful conclusion of this initiative, preferably by the fifty-third session of the Commission.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.2)]

51/101. Culture of peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations and the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolution 50/173 of 22 December 1995 entitled "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education: towards a culture of peace", in which it expressed satisfaction with the transdisciplinary project adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Towards a culture of peace", in particular unit 1, entitled "Education for peace, human rights, democracy, international understanding and tolerance",

Considering that the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004,[1] will make a fundamental contribution to understanding and peace and is consistent with the transdisciplinary project entitled "Towards a culture of peace",

Taking note of the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy,[2] adopted by the International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at Montreal from 8 to 11 March 1993, the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and all relevant provisions included in the declarations and programmes of

[1] A/49/261/Add.1-E/1994/110/Add.1, annex.

[2] See A/CONF.157/PC/42/Add.6.

action adopted in the series of international conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the need for a practical approach that can lead, through sustainable human development and the promotion of tolerance, dialogue and solidarity, to cooperation and the prevention of violence and thus to the consolidation of peace,

Considering the important results of the two international forums for a culture of peace hosted by El Salvador in February 1994 and the Philippines in November 1995,

Considering also the practical lessons learned from the national culture of peace programmes of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Burundi, the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mozambique, the Philippines, Rwanda and Somalia, whereby projects in the fields of competence of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in particular in education, have been planned and are being implemented through a process involving all parties concerned;

1. Welcomes the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the transdisciplinary project entitled "Towards a culture of peace";[3]

2. Expresses deep concern about the proliferation of violence and conflicts of a diverse nature in various parts of the world;

3. Calls for the promotion of a culture of peace based on the principles established in the Charter of the United Nations, respect for human rights, democracy, tolerance, dialogue, cultural diversity and reconciliation, and efforts to promote development, education for peace, the free flow of information and the wider participation of women, as an integral approach to prevent violence and conflicts and to contribute to the creation of conditions for peace and its consolidation;

4. Welcomes with satisfaction the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, signed in Paris on 19 October 1995;

5. Welcomes the establishment of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Prize on the Research for Peace by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-fifth session, the biennial prize awarded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the teaching of human rights and the annual prize for peace education;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the progress of educational activities within the framework of the transdisciplinary project entitled "Towards a culture of peace", including the preparation of elements

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[3] A/51/395, annex.

for a draft provisional declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace;

7. Decides to continue its consideration of the question of a culture of peace at its fifty-second session.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.2)]

51/102. Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993,[1]

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights concerning advisory services in the field of human rights, including its most recent resolution on that subject, 1996/55 of 19 April 1996,[2]

Bearing in mind also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[3]

Reaffirming that regional arrangements play a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

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[1] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3 (E/1993/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] Ibid., 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Recalling also that the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that more resources should be made available for the strengthening or the establishment of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programmes of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

Noting the progress achieved so far in the promotion and protection of human rights at the regional level under the auspices of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the regional intergovernmental organizations,

Noting also the growing exchanges between the United Nations and the bodies created by the United Nations, in accordance with the treaties dealing with human rights on the one hand and the regional intergovernmental organizations on the other, in order to promote the mutual exchange of information between these bodies and the conclusion of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. Welcomes the continuing cooperation and assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in the further strengthening of the existing regional arrangements and regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular with regard to advisory services and technical assistance, public information and education, with a view to exchanging information and experience in the field of human rights;

3. Welcomes also, in that respect, the close cooperation of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights in the organization of regional and subregional training courses and workshops in the field of human rights, high-level government expert meetings and a regional conference of national human rights institutions, aiming at creating greater understanding of the promotion and protection of human rights issues in the regions, improving procedures and examining the various systems for the promotion and protection of universally accepted human rights standards and at identifying obstacles to ratification of the principal international human rights treaties and strategies to overcome them;

4. Stresses the importance of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, renews its appeal to all Governments to consider making use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations, under this programme, of organizing information or training courses at the national level for government personnel on the application of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant international bodies, and notes with satisfaction, in that respect, the establishment of technical cooperation projects with several Governments of the region of Asia and the Pacific;

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[4] A/51/480.

5. Requests the Secretary-General, as foreseen in programme 35 (Promotion and protection of human rights) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997,[5] to continue to strengthen exchanges between the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations dealing with human rights;

6. Welcomes the growing exchanges between the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights and several regional intergovernmental organizations, as well as between the bodies created by the United Nations in accordance with the treaties dealing with human rights and the Council of Europe;

7. Invites States in areas where regional arrangements in the field of human rights do not yet exist to consider concluding agreements with a view to the establishment within their respective regions of suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights;

8. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the most appropriate ways of assisting, at their request, countries of the different regions under the programme of advisory services and to make, where necessary, relevant recommendations;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of the present resolution;

10. Decides to consider this question further at its fifty-third session.

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[5] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.2)]

51/103. Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the pertinent principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proclaimed by the General Assembly by its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32 thereof, in which it is declared that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Taking note of the report submitted by the Secretary-General[1] pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/45 of 3 March 1995,[2]

Recognizing the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights, and, in this regard, reaffirming the right to development as an integral part of all human rights,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights called upon States to refrain from any unilateral coercive measure not in accordance with

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[1] E/CN.4/1996/45 and Add.1.

[2] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

international law and the Charter of the United Nations that creates obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of all human rights,[3]

Bearing in mind all the references to this question in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, adopted by the World Summit for Social Development on 12 March 1995,[4] the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,[5] and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on 14 June 1996,[6]

Deeply concerned that, despite the recommendations adopted on this issue by the General Assembly and recent major United Nations conferences, and contrary to general international law and the Charter of the United Nations, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated and implemented with all their extraterritorial effects, inter alia, on the economic and social development of targeted countries and peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

1. Urges all States to refrain from adopting or implementing any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in particular those of a coercive nature with all their extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[7] and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. Rejects unilateral coercive measures with all their extraterritorial effects as tools for political or economic pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, because of their negative effects on the realization of all the human rights of vast sectors of their populations, in particular children, women and the elderly;

3. Calls upon Member States that have initiated such measures to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from the international human rights instruments to which they are party by revoking such measures at the earliest time possible;

4. Reaffirms, in this context, the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

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[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. I, para. 31.

[4] A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[7] Resolution 217 A (III).

5. Urges the Commission on Human Rights to take fully into account the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, including enactment of national laws and their extraterritorial application, in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

6. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in discharging his functions relating to the promotion, realization and protection of the right to development, to give urgent consideration to the present resolution in his annual report to the General Assembly;

7. Requests Member States to notify the Secretary-General about the implications and negative effects of such measures on their populations in the various aspects referred to in the present resolution;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. Decides to examine this question, on a priority basis, at its fifty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

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[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.2)]

51/104. United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and public information activities in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] according to article 26 of which "education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms", and the provisions of other international human rights instruments, such as those of article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[2] and article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3] that reflect the aims of the aforementioned article,

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights concerning the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, the project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Towards a culture of peace", the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] Resolution 44/25, annex.

Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[4] and the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Believing that the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights is a valuable complement to the activities of the United Nations aimed at the further promotion and protection of human rights, and recalling the importance attached by the World Conference on Human Rights to human rights education and information,

Convinced that human rights education should involve more than the provision of information and should constitute a comprehensive lifelong process by which people at all levels of development and in all societies learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect,

Recognizing that human rights education and information are essential to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that carefully designed programmes of teaching, learning, training and sharing of experiences, materials and information can have a catalytic effect on national, regional and international initiatives to promote and protect human rights and prevent human rights violations,

Convinced that human rights education and information contribute to a concept of development consistent with the dignity of women and men of all ages that takes into account the diverse segments of society such as children, indigenous people, minorities and disabled persons,

Taking into account the efforts to promote human rights education made by educators and non-governmental organizations in all parts of the world, as well as by intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund,

Convinced that each woman, man and child, to realize their full human potential, must be made aware of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing the invaluable and creative role that non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations can play in disseminating public information and engaging in human rights education, especially at the grass-roots level and in remote and rural communities,

Aware of the potential supportive role of the private sector in implementing at all levels of society the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004[5] and the World Public Information Campaign, through creative initiatives and financial support for governmental and non-governmental activities,

Convinced that the effectiveness of existing human rights education and public information activities would be enhanced by better coordination and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels,

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[4] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[5] A/49/261/Add.1-E/1994/110/Add.1, annex.

Recalling that it is within the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to coordinate relevant United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education,[6] and of the report of the Secretary-General on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights;[7]

2. Welcomes the steps taken by Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the Plan of Action, as indicated in the report of the High Commissioner;

3. Urges all Governments to inform their communities about the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the Decade and to contribute further to the implementation of the Plan of Action, in particular by establishing, in accordance with national conditions, broadly representative national committees for human rights education and training centres for human rights education or, where such bodies exist, to strengthen them to work towards the elaboration and implementation of an action-oriented national plan for information and education in human rights;

4. Also urges Governments to encourage, support and involve national and local non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in the implementation of their national action plans;

5. Appeals to Governments, in accordance with their national conditions, to accord priority to the dissemination in their relevant national and local languages of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights[2] and other human rights instruments, human rights materials and training manuals, as well as reports of States parties under the human rights treaties, and to provide information and education in those languages on the practical ways in which national and international institutions and procedures may be utilized to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments;

6. Welcomes the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, together with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to increase cooperation with the media, including by the provision of timely and relevant information on human rights issues;

7. Urges the Department of Public Information to continue to utilize United Nations information centres for the timely dissemination, within their designated areas of activity, of basic information, reference and audio-visual materials on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the reports of States parties under human rights instruments and, to this end, to ensure that the information centres are supplied with adequate quantities of those materials;

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[6] A/51/506, annex.

[7] A/51/558.

8. Requests the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat to continue to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency in the use, processing, management and distribution of information and educational materials and to continue to coordinate and harmonize human rights information strategies within the United Nations system;

9. Encourages the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights to continue the development of training courses and materials, including targeted training manuals for professional audiences, as well as the dissemination of human rights information materials as a component of technical assistance projects, supplemented by electronic means wherever possible, taking particular account of the human rights needs of women, children, remote or isolated communities and persons with low levels of literacy;

10. Requests the human rights mechanisms to place emphasis on the promotion and implementation of programmes of information and education on human rights;

11. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights, to consider appropriate ways and means, including the possibility of establishing a voluntary fund, to support human rights activities, including those undertaken by non-governmental organizations;

12. Invites the specialized agencies and relevant United Nations programmes to contribute, within their respective spheres of competence, to the implementation of the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights;

13. Calls upon international, regional and national non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, in particular those concerned with women, labour, development, food, housing, education, health care and the environment, as well as all other social justice groups, human rights advocates, educators, religious organizations and the media, to undertake specific activities of formal, non-formal and informal education, including cultural events, alone and in cooperation with the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights, in implementing the Plan of Action;

14. Stresses the need for close collaboration between the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information in the implementation of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the Plan of Action and the need to harmonize their activities with those of other organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the project entitled "Towards a culture of peace" and the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations with regard to the dissemination of information on international humanitarian law;

15. Encourages the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights to consider the promotion of educational and cultural activities throughout the world in accordance with the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights when preparing for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights education and public information and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.2)]

51/105. Strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that among the purposes of the United Nations are those of developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and taking other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, as well as achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Desirous of achieving further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that such international cooperation should be based on the principles embodied in international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights[2] and other relevant instruments,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Deeply convinced that United Nations action in this field should be based not only on a profound understanding of the broad range of problems existing in all societies but also on full respect for the political, economic and social realities of each of them, in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and for the basic purpose of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through international cooperation,

Reaffirming all its resolutions in this regard,

Reaffirming also the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, as affirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[3]

Affirming the importance of the objectivity, independence and discretion of the special rapporteurs and representatives on thematic issues and countries, as well as of the members of the working groups, in carrying out their mandates,

Underlining the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights,

1. Reiterates that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right within the provisions of the Charter, including respect for territorial integrity;

2. Reaffirms that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States, in cooperation with the Organization, to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur;

3. Calls upon all Member States to base their activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the development of further international cooperation in this field, on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and other relevant international instruments, and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with that international framework;

4. Considers that international cooperation in this field should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

5. Reaffirms that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as legitimate concerns of the world

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[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends;

6. Requests all human rights bodies within the United Nations system, as well as the special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and working groups, to take duly into account the contents of the present resolution in carrying out their mandates;

7. Expresses its conviction that an unbiased and fair approach to human rights issues contributes to the promotion of international cooperation as well as to the effective promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. Stresses, in this context, the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

9. Invites Member States to consider adopting, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective legal systems and in accordance with their obligations under international law, especially the Charter, and international human rights instruments, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to take duly into account the present resolution and to consider further proposals for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to consult Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights, including the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, and to submit a comprehensive report on this issue to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

12. Decides to consider this matter at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

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[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.3 and Corr.1)]

51/106. Situation of human rights in Iraq

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the duty to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Mindful that Iraq is a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, and to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[3]

Recalling its resolution 50/191 of 22 December 1995, in which it expressed its strong condemnation of the massive violations of human rights of the gravest nature in Iraq, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/72 of 23 April 1996,[4]

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[4] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 688 (1991) of 5 April 1991, in which the Council demanded an end to the repression of the Iraqi civilian population and insisted that Iraq cooperate with humanitarian organizations and ensure that the human and political rights of all Iraqi citizens were respected,

Recalling Security Council resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 986 (1995) of 14 April 1995, by which the Council authorized States to permit imports of Iraqi oil up to the amount of one billion United States dollars every ninety days, on a renewable basis, to be used, inter alia, to purchase essential food and medical supplies for humanitarian purposes,

Deploring the refusal of the Government of Iraq to cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular by not receiving a return visit of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq and not allowing the stationing of human rights monitors throughout Iraq pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the interim report on the situation of human rights in Iraq submitted by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq[5] and the observations, conclusions and recommendations contained therein, and noting his dismay that there has been no improvement in the situation of human rights in the country;

2. Expresses its strong condemnation of the massive and extremely grave violations of human rights for which the Government of Iraq is responsible, resulting in an all-pervasive order of repression and oppression which is sustained by broad-based discrimination and widespread terror;

3. Expresses its condemnation with regard to the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular of:

(a) Summary and arbitrary executions, including political killings;

(b) The widespread routine practice of systematic torture in its most cruel forms;

(c) The enactment and implementation of decrees prescribing cruel and unusual punishment, namely mutilation, as a penalty for certain offences and the abuse and diversion of medical-care services for the purpose of such mutilations;

(d) Enforced or involuntary disappearances, routinely practised arbitrary arrests and detention and consistent and routine failure to respect due process and the rule of law;

(e) Suppression of freedom of thought, information, expression, association and assembly through fear of arrest, imprisonment and other

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[5] See A/51/496 and Add.1.

sanctions, including the death penalty, as well as harsh limitations to freedom of movement;

4. Welcomes the memorandum of understanding reached in May 1996 between Iraq and the Secretary-General to implement Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and to respond to the serious humanitarian situation in Iraq perpetuated by the non-compliance of the Government of Iraq with various Security Council resolutions;

5. Urges the Government of Iraq to cooperate with the United Nations with a view to ensuring the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995), in accordance with the agreement reached in May 1996 that medicines, health supplies, foodstuffs and other humanitarian supplies purchased with the proceeds of the sale of Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products be distributed to the Iraqi population equitably and on a non-discriminatory basis;

6. Again expresses its special alarm at the policies of the Government of Iraq, which discriminate between regions and prevent the equitable enjoyment of basic foodstuffs and medical supplies, and calls upon Iraq, which has sole responsibility in this regard, to take steps to cooperate with international humanitarian agencies in the provision of relief to those in need throughout Iraq;

7. Calls once again upon Iraq, as a State party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[2] and to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] to abide by its freely undertaken obligations under the Covenants, under other international instruments on human rights and under international humanitarian law and, particularly, to respect and ensure the rights of all individuals, irrespective of their origin, within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction;

8. Demands that the Government of Iraq restore the independence of the judiciary and abrogate all laws granting impunity to specified forces or persons killing or injuring individuals for any purpose beyond the administration of justice under the rule of law as prescribed by international standards;

9. Also demands that the Government of Iraq abrogate any and all decrees that prescribe cruel and inhuman punishment or treatment and take every step necessary to ensure that the practice of torture and cruel and unusual punishments and treatment no longer occur;

10. Urges the Government of Iraq to abrogate all laws and procedures, including Revolution Command Council decree No. 840 of 4 November 1986, that penalize the free expression of competing views and ideas and to ensure that the genuine will of the people shall be the basis of authority in the State;

11. Also urges the Government of Iraq to improve its cooperation within the framework of the Tripartite Commission and its technical subcommittee with a view to establishing the whereabouts or resolving the fate of the remaining several hundred missing persons and prisoners of war, Kuwaitis and third-country nationals victims of the illegal Iraqi occupation of Kuwait;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance in carrying out his mandate and to approve the allocation of sufficient human and material resources for the sending of human rights monitors to such locations as would facilitate improved information flow and assessment and help in the independent verification of reports on the situation of human rights in Iraq;

13. Decides, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Iraq during its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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Fifty-first session
Agenda item 110 (c)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/619/Add.3 and Corr.1)]

51/107. Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[2]

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[3] adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, reaffirmed that human rights and fundamental freedoms were the birthright of all human beings and that their protection and promotion was the first responsibility of Governments,

Reaffirming that all Member States have a duty to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Mindful that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling the appointment by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights of Mr. Maurice Danby Copithorne as Special Representative of the Commission on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Recalling its previous resolutions expressing concern at the violations of human rights by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the most recent, resolution 50/188 of 22 December 1995, the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, including the most recent, resolution 1996/84 of 24 April 1996,[4] and those of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, including the most recent, resolution 1996/7 of 20 August 1996,[5]

Welcoming the cooperation extended by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of opinion and expression, who have been able to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran, and bearing in mind the reports of those Special Rapporteurs on their visits,[6]

Taking note of the interim report of the Special Representative,[7] and noting that he will present a further report to the Commission on Human Rights,

Welcoming the requests by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for technical assistance and advisory services from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights, as well as from the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat, and taking note with interest of the observation by the Special Representative in this regard,

Taking note with interest of certain recent developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran which, in the view of the Special Representative, are indicators of potential improvement of the status of women in that country,

Considering that continued international scrutiny of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Islamic Republic of Iran is warranted and that the subject should remain on the agenda of the General Assembly,

1. Expresses its concern at the continuing violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in particular the high number of executions in the absence of internationally recognized safeguards, cases of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the failure to meet international standards with regard to the administration of justice and the absence of due process of law, violations of the right to peaceful assembly and restrictions on the freedom of expression, thought, opinion and the press;

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[4] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[5] See E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41, chap. II, sect. A.

[6] E/CN.4/1996/95/Add.2 and E/CN.4/1996/39/Add.2.

[7] See A/51/479 and Add.1.

2. Also expresses its concern at the grave breaches of human rights of the Baha'is in the Islamic Republic of Iran and situations of discrimination against the members of this religious community, as well as at the discriminatory treatment of minorities by reason of their religious beliefs, including lack of adequate protection for the Christian minorities, some members of which have been the target of intimidation and assassination;

3. Further expresses its concern at the widespread discrimination against women in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the lack of full and equal enjoyment by women of human rights, and calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take effective measures to eliminate all discrimination against women;

4. Urges the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a State party to the International Covenants on Human Rights, to abide by its freely undertaken obligations under the Covenants and under other international instruments on human rights and to ensure that all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including members of religious groups and persons belonging to minorities, enjoy all the rights enshrined in those instruments;

5. Calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement fully the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief relating to the Baha'is and to other minority religious groups, including Christians;

6. Expresses its grave concern at indications, according to the information received by the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, of a significant toughening of criminal legislation and its application in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in particular at the incidence of capital punishment imposed for apostasy and non-violent crimes, in violation of the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and United Nations safeguards;

7. Expresses its concern at the harassment and persecution of persons, including writers and members of the press, seeking to exercise their freedom of expression;

8. Calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement existing agreements with international humanitarian organizations;

9. Expresses its grave concern that there are continuing threats to the life of Mr. Salman Rushdie, as well as to individuals associated with his work, which appear to have the support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, notes in this regard that efforts aimed at obtaining satisfactory written assurances from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that it does not support these threats have so far been unsuccessful, and calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide such assurances;

10. Deplores the politically motivated continuing violence against Iranians outside the Islamic Republic of Iran, and urges the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to refrain from activities against members of the Iranian opposition living abroad and the harassment of their relatives within

the Islamic Republic of Iran and to cooperate wholeheartedly with the authorities of other countries in investigating and punishing offences reported by them;

11. Welcomes the cooperation extended by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Special Representative, who has been able to conduct a preliminary visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran;

12. Expresses its hope that the Special Representative will again be allowed to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran in the discharge of his mandate;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Representative to enable him to discharge his mandate fully;

14. Decides, on the basis of the report of the Special Representative and in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, to continue the examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups such as the Baha'is, during its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996